

IN MEMORIAM

Professor Sir RUBERT BOYCE, F.R.S.

We deeply regret to record the death of Sir Rubert Boyce, Dean of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, and one of the editors of these Annals. His death, from cerebral haemorrhage, occurred on Friday, June 16th, 1911, at the early age of forty-eight. In 1906 he suffered from a severe attack of hemiplegia, from which it was hardly expected he would recover. Not only did he regain comparative health, but continued to work with the same ardent energy so characteristic of him, and even after a minor attack some weeks before the last fatal one, his indomitable spirit would not be checked. His manifold activities in Liverpool, especially in helping to found the University, are well known to all in this city, and his spirit of progress found wide scope for its play when Mr. Chamberlain, at the Colonial Office, first expounded in practical form the idea of tropical schools for the instruction of medical officers in the Tropics, and for the study of tropical diseases. Sir Rubert at once threw himself with unbounded confidence into the new movement, and, together with Sir Alfred Jones, established the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in 1898. It does not become us here to point out what part this School has played in the history of tropical medicine. Sir Rubert was not content with merely starting the movement in Liverpool, but with unremitting interest and zeal devoted the remainder of his short life to tropical medicine. His foresight was remarkable; and to quote only one instance, it was to his eager persistence and untiring effort that we owe the two professorial chairs of Tropical Medicine and Entomology associated with this School. Latterly, the subject of yellow fever more particularly claimed his attention, and in 1905, at the invitation of the American Government, he visited New Orleans to study the epidemic there, and he also visited British Honduras. In 1907 he again set out for the West Indies for the same purpose, and finally, in 1910, to West Africa. The results

of his observations have been published in several official reports; but in order that the public might be interested and instructed in sanitation, he published three works—'Mosquito or Man,' 1909; 'Health Progress and Administration in the West Indies,' 1910; 'Yellow Fever and its Prevention,' 1911—in popular form, which had an immediate and great success.

We need not discuss here his views on yellow fever in West Africa. Whether they be finally accepted or no, certain it is that he focussed attention on the subject in a way which had never been done before, and even before his death practical action was being taken by the Home Government based on his recommendations. There are many in the Tropics who will mourn the loss to the Empire; there are many who will miss his most cheery optimism; there are many who will never know what they have owed to him. For ourselves we must express our deep grief at the loss of a chief of amazing energy, of magnetic inspiration, and beyond everything, one who was a devoted friend. *Vale.*